

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03097 260847Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /041 W
-----260911Z 121039 /11

R 260526Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7267
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, TU
SUBJ: CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS (TURK-IS)
WILL STAY OUT OF POLITICS

REF: ANKARA 2761

1. SUMMARY: STORMY TWO DAY SESSION (APRIL 21-22) OF TURK-IS
COMBINED EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT BOARDS RESULTED IN STALEMATE.
SUPPORTERS F JUSTICE PARTY (JP) AND REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY(RPP)
BLOCKED EACH OTHER OUT SO THAT NO DECISION COULD BE MADE ON WHICH
PARTY TO SUPPORT. MOTION TO CALL SPECIAL DELGATE CONGRESS
OF TURK-IS WAS SIMILARLY DEFEATED. FINALLY, AGREEMENT WAS
REACHED THAT AFFILITATED UNIONS WERE FREE TO DECIDE INDIVIDUALLY,
WHICH PARTY, IF ANY, THEY WILL SUPPORT IN JUNE 5 GENERAL ELECTIONS.
IN ANNOUNCING THESE RESULTS DURING APRIL 24 PRESS CONFERENCE,
TURK-IS PRESIDENT HALIL TUNC EXPLAINED THAT THE CONFEDERATION
WOULD MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE VIS-A-VIS POLITICAL PARTIES.
HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT WORKERS WOULD NOT VOTE FOR
PARTIES TO LEFT OF RPP NOR FOR NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY
(NAP) OR NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP). END SUMMARY.

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2. MAIN FOCUS OF DEBATE WAS ON REPLIES RECEIVED FROM JP
AND RPP TO QUESTIONS PUT TO THEM BY TURK-IS (ANKARA 2761
PARA 6). JP LETTER EMPHASIZED THAT PARTY'S UPPORT
ROLE FOR TURK-IS. INDIVIDUAL TRADE UNIONISTS, HOWEVER, MAY
ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN POLIITICS, AND JP WOULD CONSIDER INCLUDING
TURK-IS LEADERS ON ITS CONTINGENCY LISTS OF CANDIDATES.
JP GAVE A GENERAL ACCEPTANCE TO OTHER TURK-IS POINTS AND

ADDED IT WOULD CONSIDER APPOINTING A TRADE UNIONIST IN FUTURE CABINET. RPP POINTED OUT THAT ITS PARTY PROGRAM ALREADY COVERS MOST OF THE TURKIS-IS POINTS AND CLAIMED THAT BY ITS POLICIES AND ACTIONS RPP HAS DEMONSTRATED IT IS ALREADY AHEAD OF TURK-IS CONCERNING WORKERS' WELFARE AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS. RPP SAID THAT ITS CHARTER WOULD HAVE TO BE AMENDED TO PERMIT APPOINTMENT OF TURK-IS LEADERS TO HIGH PARTY POSITIONS. ON THE SPECIFIC ISSUE OF RPP/DISK RELATIONSHIP, HOWEVER, THE RPP REPLY WAS OBLIQUE, REFERRING ONLY TO THE VALUE OF COOPERATION WITH WORKERS AMONG WORKERS FOR DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT AND PREVENTION OF TOTALITARIAN REGIMES.

3. DISCUSSION WAS ACRIMONIOUS AND HEATED, AND IT WAS SOON APPARENT THAT A CHOICE BETWEEN THE PARTIES WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, ONE OR ANOTHER BOARD MEMBER STORMED OUT OF THE MEETING IN PROTEST OF VIEWS EXPRESSED BY SOMEONE ELSE. AFTER MEETING FINALLY CLOSED ON AGREEMENT THAT TURK-IS WOULD STAY OUT OF POLITICS, CONFUSION REIGNED ON MUCH OF WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED. EXECUTIVE BOARD, THEREFORE, HELD SPECIAL MEETING ON APRIL 23 TO SORT OUT WHAT SHOULD BE SAID AT PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS DELAYED FURTHER DAY.

4. TUNC GAVE PRESS BRIEF STATEMENT OF MEETINGS RESULTS AND LENGTHY REITERATION OF TURK-IS LOYALTY TO ITS 24 PRINCIPLES. TURK-IS, HE SAID, OPPOSED TO CLASS STRUGGLE AND EVERY COMMUNIST, FASCIST OR THEOCRATIC STATE MOVEMENT. IN ANSWER TO REPORTERS, HE REVEALED THAT HE HAD BEEN OPPOSED TO THE SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS TO THE JP AND RPP AND DID NOT TAKE PART

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WHEN THOSE POINTS WERE DRAFTED . HE FURTHER EXPRESSED DISAGREEMENT WITH DECISION NOT TO CALL SPECIAL CONGRESS AND SAID HE WAS HAVING MATTER EXAMINED BY LEGAL EXPERTS. FINALLY, HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD NOT STAND FOR REELECTION TO THE TURK-IS PRESIDENCY.

5. DEEP WOUNDS HAVE BEEN INFLICTED, AND SPLIT WITHIN THE CONFEDERATION IS STILL POSSIBLE BUT NOT EXPECTED, SINCE THE ORGANIZATION SURVIVED PRESENT MAJOR TRIAL IN TACT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, EXECUTIVE BRANCH, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA03097
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770144-1127
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770421/aaaaarel.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c71c969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANKARA 2761
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2699657
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS (TURK-IS) WILL STAY OUT OF POLITICS
TAGS: ELAB, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c71c969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009